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OF JANUARY 1 ISLAM, AND THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF
GUNFIRE RESULTING IN AT LEAST THREE DEATHS AND A
NUMBER OF INJURIES.

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 PESHAWAR 0308

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOW, PTER, MOPS, PREF, ASEC, AF, PK
SUBJECT: TRUCK BOMB EXPLOSION TRIGGERS VIOLENT PROTEST
IN NWFP

REFS: (A) PESHAWAR 298 (NOTAL), (B) PESHAWAR 300 (NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THURSDAY'S MASSIVE TRUCK BOMB EXPLOSION
TRIGGERED TWO DAYS OF VIOLENT PROTEST IN THE FRONTIER
PROVINCE. ONE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, POLICE COPEL WITH
UNREST IN MANY DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN PESHAWAR AND
OTHER CITIES IN THE FRONTIER. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
HAVE BEEN CLOSED.

SUMMARY.

3. THURSDAY MORNING'S MASSIVE TRUCK BOMB BLAST IN
GARHI QAMARUDDIN ABOUT THREE MILES SOUTH OF PESHAWAR
ON THE KOHAT ROAD HAS NOW CLAIMED FOURTEEN LIVES AND
ABOUT SEVENTY INJURED, WITH OVER FORTY HOSPITALIZED.

SIX PERSONS ARE STILL ON
THE CRITICAL LISTS AT LOCAL HOSPITALS.

4. THE EXPLOSION, WHICH DETONATED INSIDE A LARGE
"HINO" BRAND TRUCK, WAS SO POWERFUL THAT SEVEN OR
EIGHT KATCHA (MUD) HOUSES IN THE AREA COLLAPSED. IT
DETONATED NEAR A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE OFFICE OF THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE OF PROFESSOR BURHANUDDIN RABBANI'S
JAMIA-T-ISLAM. THOSE KILLED IMMEDIATELY WERE
CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE STREET (4), LABORERS WORKING
ON A NEARBY SCHOOL (3), AND PASSER-BY. AS NIGHT
BE EXPECTED, THERE WAS PUBLIC REACTION TO THE BLAST
ON TWO LEVELS: FIRST, THE BLAST SPARKED VIOLENT
PROTEST IN THE CITY.

5. PUBLIC REACTION: AS NOTED REF A, THE EXPLOSION
TRIGGERED A REACTION AT THE SITE. AN ANGRY CROWD
GATHERED AT THE NEARBY OFFICE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

ALL THE SHOPS
IN THE CITY CLOSED THURSDAY AFTERNOON DUE TO THE
UNREST, WHICH INCLUDED ROAMING MOBS STONING OPEN SHOPS.
A MOB AT LADY READING HOSPITAL CASUALTY WARD HAD TO BE
RESTRAINED BY THE POLICE, AND TEAR GAS WAS USED BOTH
ON KOHAT ROAD AND IN QISSA KHANANI. DISTURBANCES CONTINUED
IN THE AREA OF THE EXPLOSION, WITH PERIODIC MOBS FORMING
TO BLOCK TRAFFIC AND TO THROW STONES AT AFGHAN OFFICES AND
ONE AFGHAN HOSPITAL NEARBY. TEAR GAS WAS USED, AND
THREE MORE PERSONS WERE INJURED IN FIRING FRIDAY.

6. ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS
CONTINUED.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ONE TRUCKLOAD OF DEMONSTRATORS THREW STONES AT
THE CONSULATE, STRIKING ONE EMBASSY VAN IN THE PARKING
LOT AND HITTING THE UPSTAIRS VERANDA OF THE RESIDENCE. BY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

OCT 11 1988

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END COMMENT.
ID. KABUL, MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EASTHAM BT

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7. OUTSIDE PESHAWAR ON SATURDAY, MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAILWAYS NISAR MOHAMMAD KHAN WAS REPORTEDLY REFUSED PERMISSION BY THE CROWD TO ADDRESS A DEMONSTRATION IN CHARSADDA. WALI KHAN SUBSEQUENTLY ADDRESSED THE GROUP, WHICH WAS A JOINT MEETING OF THE PUKHTOON STUDENTS FEDERATION, THE IJT, CHARSADDA BAR ASSOCIATION, THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FEDERATION, AND CHARSADDA SUGAR MILLS WORKERS. (COMMENT: STRANGE COMBINATION UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES. END COMMENT) THE DEMONSTRATION WENT VIOLENT, AND THREE GTS BUSES WERE BURNED AND MAPDA AND NATIONAL BANK OFFICES WERE RANSACKED. THERE WERE ALSO DEMONSTRATIONS IN MOWSHERA, MARDAN, AND SEVERAL OTHER TOWNS.

8. A WIDE VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS USED THE BLAST TO REVEN CALLS FOR MOVING THE REFUGEES AND CONFINING THEM TO CAMPS. THE "PESHAWAR CITIZENS FRONT," LOCALS OF THE AFFECTED AREA, KHAN ABDUL WALI KHAN, THE DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS FEDERATION, PUKHTOON STUDENTS FEDERATION, AND THE PEOPLES STUDENTS FEDERATION ALL HELD RALLIES. ANP LEADER WALI KHAN SAID, "IF EXPLOSIONS TAKE PLACE IN KABUL, BOJQUETS WON'T BE SENT TO PESHAWAR." GAZI HUSSEIN AHMAD OF JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI NOTED THAT THE NATURAL REACTION "SHOULD HAVE BEEN AGAINST THE SOVIET AGENTS" AND HINTED THAT WALI KHAN FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY. ON SATURDAY, THIS THEME WAS REITERATED BY PROVINCIAL JAMAAT LEADERS GOMAHUR REHMAN AND DR. YAKUB (NPA-DIR), WHO POINTED OUT THAT REFUGEES SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR ACTS OF AFGHAN AGENTS. AFGHAN LEADERS GULBADDIN HEHTIYYAN AND PROFESSOR SAYYAF ISSUED STATEMENTS EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS AND CONDEMNING THE EXPLOSION. THE CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM OF COMPENSATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE BLAST AND REITERATED BAN ON FIREARMS.

9. COMMENT: THE EXPLOSION ON THURSDAY WAS THE LARGEST SO FAR IN THE KHAD-INSPIRED TERROR CAMPAIGN IN PESHAWAR, AND PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN PROPORTIONATELY LARGE

ACTION

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